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FOOD INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION • UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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No. 108

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MEAT? This is the title of a 5-page mimeographed statement currently being sent out by the Office of Supply. The problem is summed up in these four points: (1) There is 10 percent less meat; (2) There's been an increase in the non-federally inspected slaughter. This interferes with distribution of limited supplies because non-inspected meat is not permitted to cross State lines; (3) Non-civilian requirements have increased because of longer supply lines and increased activity. Military requirements are up 10 percent from last year; and (4) Steps are being taken to get better distribution but there's not much hope of more meat for civilians before next fall. Copies of the statement are being sent to field offices.

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AN INTENSIVE ATTACK ON THE MEAT BLACK MARKET has recently been announced by OPA. Some steps being taken to secure fair distribution of meat at ceiling prices are: Enlargement of its meat black market investigative staff by transfer of trained investigators from other enforcement work; arranging for additional survey visits by price panel volunteers to all stores retailing meat; working closely with the Department of Justice, the Treasury Department, Defense Supplies Corporation, and other Government agencies in ways by which they aid in the war on black markets; and suspending promptly the licenses of slaughterers violating the new quota restrictions.

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SECRETARY WICKARD has officially announced the designation of FCA to dispose of agricultural and forest lands no longer needed for war purposes (USDA-747). The Surplus Property Act provides that Federal, State, county, and municipal agencies, and certain types of institutions shall have preference in the purchase of these lands. Former owners, former tenants, veterans, and the general public have next preference, in the order mentioned. FCA will make public announcement of locations and other details about the tracts that are assigned to it for disposal by the Surplus Property Board.

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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . April 23, the Senate concurred in an amendment to the Flannagan resolution clarifying the Tydings amendment regarding farm labor deferments (the bill will now be sent to the President). April 24, the House received the conference report on the Agricultural Appropriation Bill; the Senate passed a bill to continue the Selective Training and Service Act. April 25, the House agreed to the conference report on the Agricultural Appropriation Bill and acted upon items in disagreement; the President approved a deficiency appropriation bill which contains an item for restoration of CCC's capital impairment.

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The 16 mm. prints of the movie "VICTORY HARVEST," which were scheduled to go out about two weeks ago were unavoidably delayed in production. They have now been completed and were shipped to the various state depositories this week.

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THE CONTAINER CROP. . . . Fiberboard is more critical today than ever before, and WPB warns that the situation may get worse. Military requirements are at the highest point they have ever been. For this reason the need is greater than ever for the use of old containers during the balance of this quarter and probably throughout the third quarter. Fiberboard, used mainly for shipping processed foods, is in shorter supply than wood for boxes. Glass is not easy to get but the supply is adequate. Tin is more restricted. Shortage of materials is complicated by shortage of manpower in forests and saw mills. Pulp-producing mills have been urged to increase production if possible, and all mills are requested to take full advantage of the intensified waste-paper salvage program. to meet second quarter programs.

Growers and processors should be advised to place their orders for containers as early as possible since heavy demand and tight transportation may delay shipment. Special rates are in effect for the return of used containers by rail. Until April 12 ceiling prices of wooden containers were frozen at March 1942 levels. An amendment effective on that date affords means for increasing ceiling prices in cases where ceilings are so low as to threaten essential production. The amendment covers containers made wholly or principally of wood that are used for handling, picking, packaging, shipping or storing foods, liquids or industrial materials. Component parts of these containers are also included. The production of wooden egg cases will be about the same this year as last, with the supply of fiber egg cases somewhat less. New fiber egg cases may be used for rail transportation in refrigerator cars, but used fiber cases may be used for shipment by truck only. Unusable fiber cases should be turned in for salvage. Good egg cartons should be re-used where possible and salvaged as waste paper when unfit for use. Maximum use should be made of milk bottles to conserve the supply.

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COPY FOR A HOME CANNING POSTER will be sent to the printer next week. It shows a young lady holding in her arms samples of her canned products and saying: "OF COURSE I CAN. . . I'M PATRIOTIC AS I CAN BE, AND RATION POINTS WON'T WORRY ME." The poster is in full color, 18-3/8 by 26 inches in size. It will be made available to the field staffs of WFA and USDA on request to the Office of Information; a sketch of the poster will be included in the home canning kit which will be ready for distribution soon. The poster will appear this summer in many retail food stores throughout the country who are cooperating in the home canning campaign.

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A KIT OF FARM LABOR PROGRAM INFORMATIONAL AIDS is being prepared. It should be ready for distribution during the first week of May. Contents will include suggested news stores, radio scripts, ads for local sponsorship, posters, leaflets, etc. Sets are going to all county agents and others concerned with local labor recruitment. Additional single copies can be had upon request to the Office of Information.

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VICTORY GARDENS. . . . In a letter from President Truman to Prentice Cooper, chairman of the National Advisory Garden Committee, the President says, in part: "There is greater need now than at any time since the war began for more gardens and better gardens, whether they are at home, in community plots, or in company-employee gardens."

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MILITARY DEMAND FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS GOING UP. . . . Increased requirements of whole and dried skim milk, Cheddar cheese, evaporated milk, butter, and ice cream powder for the armed forces and lend-lease within the next 60 to 90 days have caused a manpower shortage in the middle western states producing these items. Local USES offices in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa are trying to recruit the necessary help for these processors during the period of flush production, the War Manpower Commission says. Some plants are reported unable to accept all available milk because of insufficient help to process it into cheese and other milk products.

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INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTORS OF FARM MACHINERY REPAIR PARTS have been placed on a par with producers of equipment in the procurement of parts, according to the WPB. An AA-2 preference rating will be granted for items and components to be used and sold as repair parts for farm machinery and equipment and must be purchased from parts manufacturers. To obtain a rating, the distributor must first obtain a serial number through application to the WPB.

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COMMERCE DEPARTMENT TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS CONSUMER GOODS. . . . The disposal of Government-owned consumer goods, including automotive vehicles and equipment, and construction and agricultural machinery, has been transferred from the Treasury to the Commerce Department by Amendment No. 1 to Surplus Property Board regulation No. 1. The transfer is effective May 1, 1945.

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PRICE SUPPORTS NOW APPLY TO HOGS UP TO 300 POUNDS. . . . Because of the relatively favorable feed situation and the great need for fats and oils, the weight of hogs on which price supports will apply has been raised to 300 pounds as against the previous limit of 270 pounds. The support price of \$13 a hundredweight will continue until September 1, 1946 (USDA release 741).

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OPA LAUNCHES COMPLIANCE DRIVE. . . . As a part of a campaign to secure grocer-consumer cooperation in keeping prices down, 300,000 kits--each containing 6 display items--are planned for distribution about June 1. One of the items is a pledge card which price-panel members will request grocers to sign and display.

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SOME RECENT USDA PUBLICATIONS. . . . Fattening Yearling Cattle in the Appalachian Region, Tech. Bul. No. 889, 11 pp.; Uniform Labels for Consumer Grades of Eggs, Misc. Pub. No. 560, 6 pp.; A Guide to Conservation Practices for Ohio, AIS-16, 8 pp.; Some Questions and Answers on Where and How to Get a Farm, AIS-19, 4 pp.; Rural Electrification After the War, AIS-11, 18 pp.

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CROP INSURANCE RETURNS, incomplete as of April 25, show that 66,700 applications have been written for insurance on the 1945 cotton crop; 12,900, on spring wheat; and 31,000 on flax, 20,000 of which are in Minnesota. Sign-up data have not yet been compiled on trial insurance on corn and tobacco.

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A NEW SCHEDULE OF DAIRY PRODUCTION PAYMENT RATES extending through March 1946 was announced yesterday by WFA (USDA-754). The new rates for butterfat, in all areas, are: 17 cents a pound in April 1945; 10 cents in May and June; 13 cents in July, August, and September; 17 cents in October and on through March 1946. New milk payment rates, with variations for different areas, are: 60 to 90 cents per hundredweight in April 1945; 25 to 55 cents in May and June; 45 to 75 cents in July, August, and September; 60 to 90 cents in October and on through March 1946.

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USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. . . . Statement by Judge Jones to hog producers--714; WFA reduces cattle, calf slaughter subsidy percentages--728 Hog support price weight range increased to 300 pounds--741; President Truman's letter to Governor Cooper (on Victory gardens)--744; FCA to dispose of surplus lands--747; Rubber production in Everglades called unpromising--748; Cheddar cheese subsidy continued--752; New schedule of dairy production rates--754.

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OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL INTEREST. . . . Regulation amended relating to vegetable processors--OPA-T-3147; New ten-point meat program announced--OWI-4298; Maximum percentages of good and choice grades of cattle for slaughter raised--OPA-T-3169; Ceiling price for 1944 Maryland tobacco increased--OPA-5514; All processed grains for feeding and mixing brought under price control--OPA-T-3159; Price action on purchases of brown rice to be shipped to foreign countries--OPA-T-3160; Nationwide campaign launched against meat black market--OPA-5522.

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The CONSUMER TIME show on May 5 (NBC, 12:15 p.m., EWT) will supply answers to some questions of veterans about farming. "Getting Started in Farming" Farmer's Bulletin No. 1961, will be offered to listeners. On May 12 suggestions for feeding dogs and other pets while meat remains scarce will be given.

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PLANE-RIDING PESTS. . . . Of the 22,000 airplanes inspected in 1944 at ports of entry by foreign plant quarantine officials, one out of seven were found to be carrying insect pests or plant diseases which could be injurious to farm crops in this country.

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HOW TO SET OUT TOMATO PLANTS, the No. 1 Victory gardeners' vegetable, will be explained on the May 5 YOUR HOME AND GARDEN show by the Moore-DuMars team. Current homemaker news by Ruth Van Deman as usual. The time--12:30 p.m., EWT.

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STATE GOALS FOR FALL PIG PRODUCTION have been determined and will be sent to the States soon for final review and revision. The farrowing of 5,836,700 sows--900,000 more than last year--has been set as the goal for attaining the national fall pig production goal of 37 million.

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The WOMEN'S LAND ARMY will be featured on NBC's May 5 "HOME IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT" show--9:00 a.m., EWT. The need for town and city women to help in raising food this year will be dramatized.

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